

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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**Date:** May 20, 2005

**News Release No.:** 05-34

### **California's Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 5.4 Percent** **Payroll Employment Up 20,400 Jobs**

**SACRAMENTO** – California's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in April, unchanged from 5.4 percent in March, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in April 2004, California's unemployment rate was 6.4 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California grew by 20,400 jobs over the month, for a total of 14,723,100.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in April was 16,792,000, a record high for employment. This was an increase of 93,000 from March, and up 409,000 from the employment total in April of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 953,000 – a decrease of 5,000 over the month, and down by 159,000 compared with April of last year. This is the lowest number of unemployed in the state since July 2001 (929,000 unemployed).

Of the unemployed, 316,100 were laid off, 99,800 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

In related data, EDD reported that there were 389,650 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the April survey week. This compares with 420,859 last month and 455,374 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 44,769 in April 2005, compared with 40,316 in March and 47,168 in April of last year.

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## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,723,100 in April, a net gain of 20,400 jobs since the March survey. This followed a gain of 21,000 jobs (as revised) in March.

Nine of the categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; information; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) added jobs over the month, gaining 25,800 jobs. The educational and health services industry showed the largest gain, up by 6,500 jobs. Two categories (**trade, transportation and utilities; and financial activities;**) reported job declines over the month, down 5,400 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 3,600 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (April 2004 to April 2005), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 247,600 jobs (up 1.7 percent).

Ten industry divisions (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 248,000 jobs. On a numerical basis, professional and business services showed the strongest employment growth, adding 62,300 jobs (a 3.0 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, construction showed the strongest gain, up 5.7 percent (adding 47,800 jobs).

One category (**natural resources and mining**) posted a job decline over the year, down 400 jobs (a decline of 1.7 percent).

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, **leisure and hospitality** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 17,000 jobs. The gains were primarily in accommodation and food service, and arts, entertainment, and recreation, which were up by 10,800 and 6,200 jobs, respectively. **Construction** showed the next largest gains over the month, adding 10,700 jobs, mainly in specialty trade contractors, which was up by 6,200. **Financial activities** was the only industry to post a job loss over the month, down 500 jobs.

Over the year, the **professional and business services** industries reported the largest gain, up 55,200 jobs. The largest gains were in the administrative and support services sector, primarily in employment services, which was up by 28,600 jobs. **Natural resources and mining** was the only industry to record a decrease over the year, down by 400 jobs.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

Industrial Classification	April 2005 (prelim.)	March 2005	April 2004	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers . . . . .	14,723.1	14,702.7	14,475.5	1.7
Natural resources and mining . . . . .	22.8	22.7	23.2	-1.7
Construction . . . . .	888.8	887.3	841.0	5.7
Manufacturing . . . . .	1,533.1	1,532.9	1,529.7	0.2
Trade, transportation and utilities . . . . .	2,765.8	2,769.4	2,741.9	0.9
Information . . . . .	493.1	489.7	480.0	2.7
Financial activities . . . . .	915.6	917.4	896.3	2.2
Professional and business services . . . . .	2,138.4	2,135.7	2,076.1	3.0
Educational and health services . . . . .	1,584.0	1,577.5	1,558.8	1.6
Leisure and hospitality . . . . .	1,477.7	1,471.4	1,433.7	3.1
Other services . . . . .	511.4	510.9	503.2	1.6
Government* . . . . .	2,392.4	2,387.8	2,391.6	0.0
Agriculture . . . . .	380.4	376.9	379.9	0.1

\*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

**TABLE A**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

	April 2005	March 2005	February 2005	April 2004
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	17,745,000	17,657,000	17,742,000	17,495,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	16,792,000	16,699,000	16,717,000	16,383,000
Unemployment . . . . .	953,000	958,000	1,025,000	1,112,000
Seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	5.4	5.4	5.8	6.4
US seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.5

**TABLE B**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA**

	April 2005	March 2005	February 2005	April 2004
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	17,659,000	17,628,000	17,716,000	17,422,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	16,735,000	16,629,000	16,624,000	16,339,000
Unemployment . . . . .	924,000	999,000	1,092,000	1,083,000
Unadjusted rate % . . . . .	5.2	5.7	6.2	6.2

<sup>a</sup>Labor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES**  
**April 2005 (Preliminary); 2004 BENCHMARK**  
**NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>17,658,100</b>	<b>16,734,600</b>	<b>923,600</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
ALAMEDA	748,500	712,200	36,300	4.9%
ALPINE	510	480	40	7.0%
AMADOR	17,160	16,280	880	5.1%
BUTTE	98,800	92,500	6,300	6.4%
CALAVERAS	19,780	18,640	1,140	5.8%
COLUSA	9,570	8,400	1,170	12.2%
CONTRA COSTA	507,300	483,700	23,600	4.6%
DEL NORTE	10,520	9,760	760	7.2%
EL DORADO	89,500	85,500	4,100	4.5%
FRESNO	401,700	364,300	37,400	9.3%
GLENN	11,700	10,740	960	8.2%
HUMBOLDT	61,500	57,900	3,600	5.8%
IMPERIAL	61,700	52,700	9,000	14.6%
INYO	9,340	8,910	430	4.6%
KERN	319,100	291,700	27,500	8.6%
KINGS	54,800	49,600	5,300	9.6%
LAKE	25,780	23,830	1,960	7.6%
LASSEN	14,020	13,040	980	7.0%
LOS ANGELES	4,894,600	4,628,800	265,800	5.4%
MADERA	61,900	56,900	5,000	8.1%
MARIN	129,600	125,000	4,600	3.5%
MARIPOSA	8,030	7,500	540	6.7%
MENDOCINO	43,160	40,640	2,520	5.8%
MERCED	99,100	88,800	10,200	10.3%
MODOC	4,060	3,740	320	7.9%
MONO	8,860	8,520	340	3.9%
MONTEREY	210,700	196,200	14,500	6.9%
NAPA	72,900	70,000	2,900	3.9%
NEVADA	48,370	46,220	2,150	4.5%
ORANGE	1,596,200	1,541,000	55,200	3.5%
PLACER	155,700	149,600	6,100	3.9%
PLUMAS	10,420	9,500	910	8.8%
RIVERSIDE	817,800	779,600	38,200	4.7%
SACRAMENTO	666,400	636,500	30,000	4.5%
SAN BENITO	25,200	23,000	2,300	8.9%
SAN BERNARDINO	846,900	806,400	40,500	4.8%
SAN DIEGO	1,498,400	1,439,000	59,400	4.0%
SAN FRANCISCO	424,200	403,700	20,500	4.8%
SAN JOAQUIN	287,100	265,500	21,600	7.5%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	132,000	127,000	5,000	3.8%
SAN MATEO	362,500	347,700	14,700	4.1%
SANTA BARBARA	219,100	210,900	8,200	3.8%
SANTA CLARA	815,300	772,300	42,900	5.3%
SANTA CRUZ	144,700	135,200	9,600	6.6%
SHASTA	84,400	78,600	5,800	6.8%
SIERRA	1,440	1,290	150	10.4%
SISKIYOU	18,840	17,230	1,610	8.6%
SOLANO	209,900	199,000	10,900	5.2%
SONOMA	255,600	244,800	10,800	4.2%
STANISLAUS	227,100	207,500	19,600	8.6%
SUTTER	40,200	36,000	4,200	10.3%
TEHAMA	24,680	22,980	1,700	6.9%
TRINITY	5,340	4,770	580	10.8%
TULARE	179,200	162,100	17,100	9.5%
TUOLUMNE	26,060	24,420	1,640	6.3%
VENTURA	421,700	404,300	17,300	4.1%
YOLO	94,000	89,200	4,800	5.1%
YUBA	25,300	23,100	2,200	8.9%